

Remarks

Claim amendments

By the instant amendment, all limitations from claim 2 have been imported into claim 1 and claim 2 has subsequently been deleted. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Following the entry of the instant amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 are pending in the application.

Allowable subject matter

The examiner has stated that claim 2 is allowable because the prior art of record (Fujishiro, U.S. 5,645,723) fails to teach or suggest "the step whereby the liquids in the matrix vessels are extracted by centrifugation, in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention." The Applicants thank the examiner for allowing this subject matter.

The amended claim 1 now recites exactly the combination of the features and elements of the claimed invention together with the centrifugation step, which are not found in the prior art of record. Therefore claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 4-7 depend upon the now allowable claim 1 and therefore incorporate all the limitations of that claim. Allowance of dependent claims 4-7 is also respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. It is believed that no fees are due at this time, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0812. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned directly at 925-730-8567.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 18, 2009



Olga Kay (Reg. No. 57,459)

Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.
4300 Hacienda Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Tel. 925-730-8567
Fax 925-225-1128